a full time officer as Protector of Depressed Classes had engaged the attention of the Government. In Cochin, where the question was taken up simultaneously, such an officer had already been appointed. A full time officer should be appointed as Protector of Depressed Classes, without any further delay. Better encouragement should be given to the *Karayogams* and Co-operative Societies established for the special benefit of the community. The Government had appointed Honorary Organisers for the advancement of the Co-operative Societies. But there were none among them belonging to the depressed classes, like the Pulayas and Parayas. Members of the Pulaya and Paraya communities should also be appointed as Honorary Organisers of Co-operative Societies in various parts of the State.

DEWAN'S REPLY: നിങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിന്റെ പിൻതുടച്ചാവകാശത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഒരു ചട്ടം ഉണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നു നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞു. അതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ച് നിങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിന്റെ പൊതുവേയുള്ള അഭിപ്രായം വരുത്തുന്നതിനു പേഷ്കാരന്മാരെ ചുമതലപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ആലോചനയിൽ ഇരിക്കുകയാണു്.

നിങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിലുള്ള പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങളെ ശരിയായവിധത്തിൽ പ്രോത്സാഹനം ചെയ്യുന്നില്ലെന്നും അതുകൊണ്ട് നിങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിലുള്ളവരെ ആർഗനൈസേർസായി (organisers) നിയമിക്കണമെന്നും പറഞ്ഞു. ആർഗനൈസേർസിനെ സക്കാർ ശമ്പളത്തിൽ നിയമിക്കുന്നപതിവു ഇപ്പോൾ നിത്തിയിരിക്കയാണു്. എങ്കിലും അതു് വീണ്ടും തുടങ്ങണമോ എന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ആലോചനയിൽ ഇരിക്കുകയാണു്. അതു തീച്ചയായാൽ നിങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിൽനിന്നും ആർഗനൈസേർസിനെ നിയമിക്കുന്ന കാര്യം ആലോചിക്കാം.

നിങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കുവേണ്ടി നിങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിൽനിന്നും ചെയ്യുന്ന എല്ലാവിധശ്രമങ്ങളേയും ഗവണ്മെൻറു വേണ്ടവിധത്തിൽ സഹായിക്കുന്നതാണു്.

[The need for legislation relating to succession and inheritance in your community has been enquired into by the Peishkars and is under consideration by Government. You said that Co-operative Societies composed of members of your community are not receiving proper encouragement. If and when Organising Secretaries are again appointed, the question of selecting men from your community will be considered. Government are ready to render all proper help to organisations working for the uplift of your community.]

151. Disabilities of the Pulayas.

MR. P. K. DAS (*Nominated*): who made his representation in Malayalam, said that the Travancore State stood in the forefront in the matter of educational advancement when compared to the British Indian provinces and other Native States. Out of a revenue of two to two and a half crores of rupees, nearly Rs. 50 lakhs or 20

per cent. was annually spent on education. Yet as a matter of fact, the members of the depressed classes, such as the Pulayas and Parayas, had not advanced much in the matter of education. Out of the total population of 45 lakhs in the State, nearly 17 lakhs of people were illiterate and they mainly belonged to the depressed classes.

It was true that the Government had allowed great concessions in the matter of the education of the depressed classes, but it had not the full desired effect, because the Government did not bestow sufficient attention in the matter. Primary education was now free. But to make it really useful, it should be made compulsory. The Government themselves had admitted that most of the students who joined the first class did not continue up to the fourth class. The only remedy was to make education compulsory from the fifth year to the ninth year of every child. The figures of the previous year showed that the backward communities had not advanced much in education during the year. Whatever concessions were shown in educational matters, they would not be beneficial without some compulsion behind.

The Government should also pay some attention to the education of adults. The Government should establish night schools for the benefit of those who could not afford to attend the day schools.

Further the pupils belonging to the depressed classes should be supplied with free noon-day meals. Those of them studying in classes above the fourth class should also be given free the required text books.

There were only very few qualified men in the community. But even their claims were disregarded in the matter of appointments. There were many appointments in the State service which did not require high examination qualifications and there would not be any difficulty in appointing the members of the community to such posts. The Pulayas should be appointed to the lower ranks in all the departments. More Pulayas should be entertained in the Police, Forest and Excise Departments. A Pulaya had been appointed as a P. W. D. Maistry in the temporary establishment. He should be drafted to the permanent establishment. The Pulayas should be exempted from the operation of the order that new appointments should be made in the Education Department only after the confirmation of acting hands. As there were many acting hands in the department to be confirmed, the members of the community could never hope to get a place in the near future under the existing order.

Representations were being made from 1103 onwards for the free grant of land for the establishment of a Pulaya colony in Central Travancore. A memorial had also been submitted to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent when Her Highness visited Aranmula, praying that the place called Areekka *kavu* comprised in Survey No.923/1 in the Ranni *pakuthi*, Pattanamthitta taluk, should be granted to the Pulayas for the establishment of a colony. The site in question was not one from which the Government derived any income. Early orders should be issued for the grant of the land to the Pulayas of Central Travancore for the establishment of a colony.

Certain portions of the *puduval* lands assigned to Pulayas on concessional terms were quite unproductive and unsuitable for habitation. Orders should be issued for better lands being granted to them in place of such unproductive tracts. Further, lands disafforested from the Reserves should be registered in the names of Pulayas, the *thara-vila* and *thadivila* on such lands being made payable within a prescribed period.

Representatives of the community should be deputed, on payment of a small remuneration, for the purpose of registering lands in the names of the Pulayas of Central Travancore.

Lastly, the member represented the need for nominating a member of the Pulaya community to the Legislative Council. In reply to a similar representation at the 26th Session, the Dewan had promised to consider the question at the time of the next nomination. The Pulayas stood in the forefront among the depressed classes, in their numerical strength. Usually a member was nominated to the Legislative Council from among the Sambavars of South Travancore. At least in the next Council, a Pulaya member should be nominated to represent the depressed classes.

DEWAN'S REPLY: നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞതായ സംഗതികളിൽ പലതും നിങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട മറ്റു മെമ്പറന്മാർ പ്രതിപാദിക്കയും അതിലേക്കു ഞാൻ മറുപടി പറകയും ചെയ്തുകഴിഞ്ഞു. ക്ലൃപ്തമായിട്ടു നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞതു് നിയമസഭയിൽ പുലയരിൽനിന്നും ഒരു മെമ്പരെ നിയമിക്കണമെന്നാണു്. അതിനു ഞാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലം പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെതന്നെ, നാമിനേഷൻ (nomination) സമയം വരുമ്പോൾ, പ്രാതിനിധ്യമില്ലാത്ത മറ്റു സമുദായക്കാരുടെ കാര്യംകൂടി ആലോചിച്ചു പ്രവൃത്തിക്കാം.

[Most of the points dealt with in your representation have been raised before and replied to. When nominations are next made to the Legislative Council, the question of nominating a member belonging to your community will be considered, along with the claims of other unrepresented communities.]

152. Needs of the Fisher-folk.

MR. L. A. NETTO (*Nominated*) said that the fishing community of the State, who numbered two lakhs, deserved better consideration at the hands of the Government, especially in view of the fact that they were responsible for the production of food, for home consumption, of about 95 per cent. of the population of the State. The geographical and social isolation of the fisherfolk made them scarcely known to outsiders. The community was quite backward in civilization. As there was general ignorance concerning the real condition of the fisherfolk, the first step towards bettering them should be to discover what actually was ailing them. A committee should be appointed to study the causes of the gradual deterioration of the fisherfolk, their chronic poverty and